HF Happenings

No 504

May 2012

Logbook of the World Marks 50 000 Users

On 1 May, Dragan Pavlovic, YT3PDT, completed his registration process for Logbook of The World (LoTW), becoming the 50 000th person to take advantage of the ARRL's online QSL confirmation system. According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, there are more than 3 500 individuals from outside the US in the process of obtaining a digital certificate, and more than 1 800 individuals inside the US who have started the certificate process, but not yet finished.

Earlier this year, the ARRL and CQ Communications announced that the ARRL would provide support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by LoTW, beginning with the WPX Award. This project has entered the beta testing phase with a select group of hams and, barring any unforeseen circumstances, is on track to be launched to the Amateur Radio community this month.

"Radio amateurs around the world consider LoTW to be the 'must have' awards and electronic confirmation system," Patton said. "We look forward to planned improvements and upgrades, and we are gratified that so many people have helped the system grow and become more and more useful."

SA AMSAT Space Symposium in Durban on Saturday

If you have not yet booked for the SA AMSAT Space Symposium to be held at the University of KwaZulu Natal this Saturday, 12 May, it is too late. The programme is packed with presentations and demonstrations covering a wide range of subjects of interest to radio amateurs and persons who have an interest in science and technology.

Telkom is the lead sponsor making it possible to have speakers from all over South Africa. The SA National Space Agency is sponsoring the attendance of students and Learners and a number of companies have come on board with attendance prizes. From RF Design, there are four TinyTrack APRS boards to be won, Comtest and RS are donating multi-meters. Visit www.amsatsa.org.za for the programme, list of attendance prizes (which is growing everyday) and the registration form.

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

The AWA Valve QSO Party

On Saturday 12 May and Sunday 13 May, the Antique Wireless Association Valve QSO party will be held. On Saturday the AM leg will be run and on Sunday the SSB leg. On both days the contest runs from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC (15:00 to 19:00 CAT) and frequencies to use are - 40 metres: 7 060 – 7 100 and 80 m 3 603 to 3 650 kHz.

The exchange is call sign, a RS report, a consecutive serial number starting at 001 and the type of rig used. The scoring (your radio) - All valve radio 3 points per contact; Hybrid radio 2 points per contact; Solid State Radio 1 point per contact.

Logs must be submitted by 28 May 2012 and can be sent to andyzs6ady@vodamail.co.za or AWA of Southern Africa, PO Box 12320, Benoryn, 1504. Certificates will be awarded to the three highest scores in each category.

May 2012
1 – Worker's Day
5 and 6 – Riebeek Valley Olive Festival, Riebeek Kasteel and Riebeek West; LA Sports 4x4 Products in Action Show, Pretoria
6 – ZS3 Sprint
12 – SA AMSAT Symposium, Durban
12 and 13 – AWA Valve QSO Party
13 – Mother's Day
17 – Ascension Day
18 to 20 – ABSA Calitzdorp Port and Wine Festival
18 to 20 – Dayton Hamvention
20 – ZS4 Sprint
20 - National Museums Day
24 – Radio Amateur Exam
26 – Stars and Planets evening, Gariep Dam
26 and 27 – CQ WPX CW Contest
27 – SARL Digital contest
30 – SARL 80 m Club contest, digital

On the Air

This weekend, 12 and 13 May, there will be Mills on the Air (MOTA) – anybody operating from Mostert's Mill down in the fairest Cape. We have Islands on the Air (IOTA), Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Summits on the Air (SOTA). In September, I see there will be Railways on the Air (ROTA). There are also Castles and Stately Homes on the Air (CASHOTA). I have read about Airfields on the Air, Dams on the Air and Towers on the Air.

Mills on the Air (MOTA) http://www.mills-on-the-air.net/

National Museums Day is held annually in May

To recognise this event, the Zululand Amateur Radio Club will be operating as ZS5ZLB from the Nongqayi Fort in Eshowe on Sunday 20 May 2012. Every station worked will receive the special QSL card, which includes a photograph of the Fort - which now houses the Museum. If you work ZS5ZLB on this special day, please send them a QSL card and enclose a SASE. Look out for them - mainly on 40 m.

ZARC will be demonstrating amateur radio to visitors to the function.

What are other Clubs planning? Chat to your local Museum, set up a station, arrange a bring and braai lunch and enjoy the day – you can also work the ZS4 Sprint! Take a photo of the station and send it to radiozs@sarl.org.za, you never know, it may be a cover photograph.

Digifest 2012

The annual "Digifest" will be held as usual on the 1st full weekend of June (2012 dates are 2 and 3 June). This is going to be Digifest's 5th year, and its popularity is growing with last year's received logs number of more than 200. The oddness of this Contest is the great variety of different categories of the participants in five digital modes: RTTY 75, BPSK 63, MFSK 16, Hellschreiber, Olivia and the most fair points calculation based on the distance between the stations.

The Contest consists of three convenient periods (8 hours each) during the weekend. To add more adrenalin into this competition a special feature will be offered to those who like competing in real time online results will be presented on a server.

Moreover, of course, a lot of very nice prizes, mostly RigExpert AA-230 and AA-30 Antenna Analyzers and RigExpert USB Interfaces. All prizes sponsored by RigExpert Ukraine Ltd. Since the number of the participants is relatively small and the most populated competing area is Europe, the "far away" stations from NA, SA, Africa, Asia and Australia are at great advantage. From the last year's experience, those stations were the most prizewinners. Considering this and to support growing participation from Europe, the sponsors "double" the prizes i.e. separate main prizes are now available both for Europe and for the "rest of the World." However, wait that's not all! For those of you who will not be able to win "main prize" in respected category, there will be many small gifts, like T-shirts and paper awards. All the prizes will be mailed to participant's home addresses. The results are usually available just 2 weeks after the end of the Contest.

So, let us just meet on the 1st weekend of June and have fun! The complete rules can be found at www.rigexpert.com/index?s=main&f=digifest, www.mixw.net/misc/DigiFest/index.html and http://ut7fp.kiev.ua

Propagation Study on 5 MHz Published

A paper entitled "Comparison of propagation predictions and measurements for mid-latitude HF near-vertical incidence sky wave links at 5 MHz" has just been published in the peer-reviewed, academic journal Radio Science. The paper, by Dr Marcus Walden, G0IJZ, compares near-vertical incidence sky wave, or NVIS, measurements from the UK 5 MHz beacon network with HF propagation predictions using VOACAP and ASAPS software. A link to the manuscript can be found on www.rsgb.org.uk

The SARL has submitted a proposal to ICASA to allocate spectrum in the 5 MHz band for radio amateurs in South Africa to do propagation research on this band. An amateur allocation in the 5 MHz band is on the ITU WRC-015 agenda.

One of the problems with Amateur allocations at 40 and 80 metres is that the two bands are an octave apart in frequency. At stages when the MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) falls below 7 MHz in the 300 to 500 km distance range, the LUF (Lowest Usable Frequency) is still above 4 MHz. This is especially true in the late afternoon/early evening. This leaves Radio Amateurs without a direct workable HF frequency over these moderate distances. When the MUF falls below 7 MHz, the lower portion of 5 MHz is perfectly in the OTF (Optimum Traffic Frequency) range that then stretch from about 4,9 to 5,6 MHz range.

Ean Retief, ZS1PR, found that in studies carried out in a commercial application that during times of low Solar Flux 5 MHz could be used right through the day in preference to frequencies just below 7 MHz. He also observed that in winter the band is very quiet during the day and excellent for Packet-radio as well phone. In times of high Solar Flux 5 MHz can be used from sundown right trough the night until well after dawn when there is no daytime "skip zone" on 5 MHz. The SARL is following up with ICASA and has asked the agency to fast track the application.

Magazine Roundup

Electronic Design (5 April) - "Understanding Solutions for the Crowded Electromagnetic Spectrum" by Lou Frenzel W5LEF, covering VHF through microwave, FCC regulation, and upcoming technology solutions to the problem.

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IEEE *Spectrum* (April) - "Poor Man's Solder Reflow Oven" for adding reflow soldering to your homebrew electronics capability.

IEEE *Spectrum* (March) - "Pocket Scope Roundup" reviews four different mini-scopes that fit in your hand, "DIY Manufacturing" about turning your one-off project into a real product, and a "Reflections" editorial by Robert Lucky asking, "Is Math Still Relevant?"

FDMDV Open Source 1400 bps HF Modem

David Rowe, VK5DGR, has made available open source software for a 1 400 bps HF modem. FDMDV stands for Frequency Division Multiplexed Digital Voice. A FDM modem is basically a bunch of slow modems running in parallel. For example FDMDV has 14 carriers spaced 75 Hz apart, each running at 50 symbols/second. Due to multipath problems on HF, this approach works better than one carrier running at 14 × 50 = 700 symbols/second. On each symbol are encoded two bits using differential QPSK, so the bit rate is 1 400 bit/s.

One of the applications of the modem will be Digital Voice since it offers fast sync, no multi-second training sequences, the ability to recover quickly after a fade, and no automatic retransmit of "bad" packets.

Further information and source code at the FDMDV Modem page
http://www.rowetel.com/blog/?page_id=2458
Digital Voice Codec2 mailing list https://lists.sourceforge.net/lists/listinfo/freetel-codec2

High-performance HF transceiver design

The free fortnightly magazine EDN (Electronic Design News) features an article about amateur radio high-performance HF transceiver design. The article by Doug Grant, K1DG, describes how high-end amateur radio equipment reaches new levels of performance using state-of-the-art technology and design tricks.

Read High-performance HF transceiver design: A ham's perspective
http://www.edn.com/article/521690-High_performance_HF_transceiver
_design_A_ham_s_perspective.php
Read Doug's previous article in EDN - Ham radio in the 21st century
http://www.edn.com/article/519742-Ham_radio_in_the_21st_century.php

DXCC News

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports that the following operations are approved for DXCC credit:
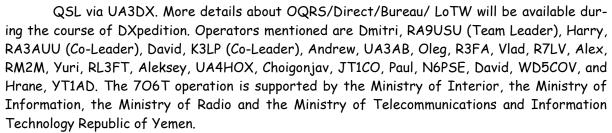7O6T - Yemen; current operations
6O3A - Somalia; 2012 operation

7O6, Yemen

An international team of operators are now active as 7O6T from Socotra Island (AF-028) as of 21:00 UTC 30 April until 21:00 UTC 15 May. Activity will be on 160 - 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are - CW – 1 824, 3 504, 7 004, 10 104, 14 024, 18 074, 21 024, 24 894 and 28 024 kHz; SSB – 1 845, 3 780, 7 065/7 180, 14 145, 18 145, 21 295, 24 945 and 28 495 kHz; RTTY – 7 035, 10 140, 14 080, 18 100, 21 080, 24 920 and 28 080 kHz

The 7O6T log shows (per ClubLOG dated 5 May at 21:06 UTC): 74 613 Total QSOs and 20 859 with Unique Calls. Mode breakdown: 38 537 - CW, 35 329 - SSB and 747 - RTTY. Continent breakdown: 562 - AF, 0 - ANT, 8 312 - AS, 48 761 - EU, 15 906 - NA, 558 - OC and 514 - SA.

QSL via UA3DX. More details about OQRS/Direct/Bureau/ LoTW will be available during the course of DXpedition. Operators mentioned are Dmitri, RA9USU (Team Leader), Harry, RA3AUU (Co-Leader), David, K3LP (Co-Leader), Andrew, UA3AB, Oleg, R3FA, Vlad, R7LV, Alex, RM2M, Yuri, RL3FT, Aleksey, UA4HOX, Choigonjav, JT1CO, Paul, N6PSE, David, WD5COV, and Hrane, YT1AD. The 7O6T operation is supported by the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Radio and the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology Republic of Yemen.

The 7O6T operation does have a Web page http://www.yemen2012.com/index.php and Twitter page https://twitter.com/#!/7o6t

One man DXpedition from the Caribbean

Barry, ZS1FJ/9V1FJ (G4MFW) will be active, on a one man DXpedition, from the Caribbean between 9 and 20 May, 2012. His planned schedule is as follows: 09 - 11 May PJ7/G4MFW (St. Maarten - NA-105, WLOTA 0711) and FS/G4MFW (St. Martin - NA-104, DIFO FS-001, WLOTA 0383); 12 - 14 May PJ5/G4MFW (Saba - NA-145, WFF PAFF-027, WLOTA 2043); 15 - 16 May FJ/G4MFW (St. Barthelemy - NA-146, DIFO FJ-001, WLOTA 0377); 17 - 20 May PJ2/G4MFW (Curacao - SA-099, WLOTA 0942) and PJ4/G4MFW (Bonaire - SA-006, WFF PAFF-024, WLOTA 1279). He will operate on the HF bands using 100 W and wire antennas. QSL via 9V1FJ.

Amateur Radio Apps

With the number of mobile devices increasing every day, it is surprising that there are not more "mobile apps for mobile ops!" Nick, N3WG, has been busy creating tools and software as Pignology, http://pignology.net/, check out his collection of amateur radio apps and growing set of interfaces to some popular portable radios. Using his new Pigtail kit and an iPad, this video, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYm4g4kuBco&feature=youtu.be, shows him using the CW Terminal sending CW on a KX3 rig using a Bluetooth keyboard and logging contacts on his Ham Logger app.

They have a Name

Ward, NØAX, writes, "With the Dayton Hamvention and many local and regional hamfests coming up, it is time to review the zoology that makes each and every hamfest a unique and interesting experience for buyers and sellers alike!"

* Venerable Sages - Like spirits on Christmas Eve, these hamfest haunts appear from nowhere, wizened and wrinkled, call sign badge bearing the markings of extreme age. You will be told *A Story* that you will have never heard before about hams you may have never heard of. Yet it will be fascinating! Some day in the future, when you least expect it, that story will supply a crucial detail, amazing your friends and enemies alike. Learn to listen to the sage!
* Disorder Demons - There is a special position down there in the hot place where the guy with the red cape and pointy stick lives for the people who handle your carefully-sorted parts and put them back in the wrong boxes or trays. An unsuspecting buyer gets home and begins work on a project only to find that the ninth part out of ten is mismatched. At next year's hamfest, *you* get blamed for it.
* Benevelonians - Particularly fond of new hams and kids in general, these fine folks take the hamfest role of doting uncles and aunts. No matter how shy the child or unsure the novice, a Benevelonian will always come up with some trinket or extra part to give away or add to the sale.

"I've got just the thing for YOU!" they say, eyes twinkling, producing a perfectly chosen gift or gadget for which they will not accept a cent.

* Burrowers - As we all know, the best bargains are often on the floor under the tables so a Burrower gets down on hands and knees, no matter how crowded the aisle, proceeding to root through every single box and bag, spreading and sorting the collection, creating chaos and convincing your real customers to cross the aisle to "come back later". They will then offer one-tenth the asking price on a single coil of wire and leave it on the table when you do not sell it to them.

* Explainers - An inquisitive buyer inevitably asks the one question about an item to which you do not know the answer. "Will this work with my 1983 Festalon Maglerator?" Unbidden, a hitherto unnoticed Explainer standing nearby will turn and deliver an authoritative and often exhaustive reply to the question, leaving both buyer and seller speechless and astounded. The Explainer will then purchase an obscure item from your table costing less than a dollar and disappear, never to be seen again.

* Hamfest Cowbirds - The cowbird lays eggs in the nest of other birds for its chicks to be raised by the hapless parents. Similarly, the hamfest cowbird leaves its junk on your table so *you* get to dispose of it. While you are engaged with another customer, they put their item on one end of the table and feign great interest in some other doo-dads, slowly migrating along the table until at the opposite end from their "egg" which they leave behind. You discover the ruse when somebody asks, "How much you want for this?" while holding up the surprise you now own.

* Biographers - No matter what you pick up from their table, they know its entire history beginning with the digging of the ore and the smelting of the copper. They know the call signs of every owner (before and after vanity calls) and whether they smoked and what got worked with that particular radio. They always have the manual. The only thing they are not sure of is whether a particular item is actually functional but you have had so much fun learning about it you buy it anyway.

* Gravity Testers - I am sure they spend the morning greasing up their fingers with special non-stick coatings. Once at your table, they will lift up a fragile item and then..."Oops!" Or they'll hold that power transformer over a flawless radio cabinet and..."Oops!" A variation on this theme is to reach for something in the back or down the table and..."Oops!"...knock over a stack of books or gear. Yes, gravity has been found to be fully operational at your table.

* Cats In the Hat - I like these colourful hamfest denizens, usually adorned with bright clothes, patches, enough enamelled pins to distort the local magnetic field, friendly and loud and they know your name (or think they do), and have a handshake for everybody! They often leave your table messed up and buyers forget what they were interested in but everybody has a smile on their face afterward. You just have to watch out for Thing One and Thing Two.

And so our hamfest memories are made - of characters old and young, rich and poor, scallywag and Samaritan alike. It would not be the same without the slightly daffy denizens of our tribe, would it? Look at the time, they will be opening the gates in an hour - happy shopping!

PVC Pipe

Two notes on everybody's favourite building material - here is an article from Instructables on how to bend PVC pipe http://www.instructables.com/id/Bending-PVC-pipe-Just-because-you-can/ and there are lots more ideas in the comments. Moreover, those plastic plumbing fittings you were looking for that join three pipes in a right-angled corner. They are called "90° side outlet elbows (slip)" "Slip" means for unthreaded connections. Enjoy.

Word to the Wise

Soapbox - after-the-contest comments are called "Soapbox" because of the somewhat antiquated reference to "standing on one's soapbox" to make an opinion known. Soapboxes have not been heavy enough to hold a person's weight in about a century but why mess up a good word. Reading the soapbox comments after a contest is part of the fun.

Operating Tip

Have two or three different models of headphones available for long contests. A single set can create sore spots on your ears or temples that gets maddening by Sunday afternoon. Having a couple of different sets, helps prevent that distraction. The same goes for chair cushions!

African DX

Somalia, 6O. A team of Italian operators will be active between 7 and 18 May from Galkayo, Somalia, as 6O0CW. Operators mentioned are Silvano, I2YSB (6O0CW), Vinicio, IK2CIO (6O0IO), Angelo, IK2CKR (6O0KR), Marcello, IK2DIA (6O0IA), Stefano, IK2HKT (6O0KT) and Gino, IK2RZP (9O0ZP). Also mentioned are Software developer Giacomo, IH9GPI, and Pilot station Art, IK7JWY. Activity will be on 160 - 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

Suggested frequencies are - CW – 1 823, 3 530, 7 025, 10 113, 14 050, 18 069, 21 050, 24 891 and 28 050 kHz; SSB - 3 790, 7 056/7 125, 14 270, 18 130, 21 275, 24 980 and 28 450 kHz; RTTY – 7 041, 10 142, 14 080, 18 103, 21 080, 24 915 and 28 080 kHz; 6 m – 50 105/CW and 50 105/SSB

QSL Manager is I2YSB, direct or by the OQRS. They state on their Web page [edited]: "The members of Italian DXpedition Team, after the donation of an ambulance to the Galkayo Medical Centre and an absence of six years from Galkayo, return to the country to help again the Somali Red Crescent Society. The same team has operated from Somalia in 2005 with the call sign 6O0CW and 2006 with the call sign 6O0N, putting in the log about 25 000 QSOs in the first case and about 35 000 QSOs in the second one. We ask those who have already worked us during one of these DXpeditions not to work us again on the same bands/modes, thus giving more opportunities for those who have not previously worked Somalia. Thanks for your cooperation."

For more details, visit their Web page at http://www.i2ysb.com/joomla5. A forum for the 6O0CW operation is available at http://www.hamradioweb.net

Senegal, 6V. Vladimir, RK4FF, will once again be active as 6V7S from Le Calao in Ngaparou between 16 and 28 May. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via RK4FF.

African Islands

Only the seagulls and the sand!

Special Event Stations

Netherlands. Members of the Veron Woerden Radio Club (Division A66) will be active as PG6MILL between 12 and 13 May. Activity will take place from the Dutch Windmill 'de Wind-

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hond' during the Windmills on the Air Event. Operations will be on 80 m – 70 cm. The PI4WNO members are also celebrating the club's 25th anniversary. QSL via PA4J. During the WOTA Event, it is possible to earn an award, for details see http://www.pd6mill.com

England. The Essex-based Loughton and Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society (LEFARS) will be operating GB2RGM from the Royal Gunpowder Mills during 12 and 13 May as participants in National Mills Weekend. Mills on the Air http://www.mills-on-the-air.net/

"Botley Flour Mills" near Southampton is one of the most famous old mills in the United Kingdom and is listed in the "Domesday Book." M0IED, his father G6FRT and other members of the "Itchen Valley Radio Club" will activate it for the "Mills on the Air" weekend (12 and 13 May). With the support of the Southampton University Wireless Society they will use the special call GB0BFM on 80, 40, 2 m and 70 cm. QSL via M0IED. See also http://www.mills-on-the-air.net/?PAGE=current

Germany. On the occasion of the completion of coal mining in Saarland a special event station signs DL250COAL (special DOK: 250Kohle) in all modes on all bands until 31 December. QSL via bureau to DK8VR.

Belarus. The special event station EV1150P celebrates the 1150th anniversary of the city of Polotsk. QSL via EW6DX.

Contest Calendar
This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 7 to 14 May 2012.

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 7 May
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RS and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 14 May 2012
Upload log at: http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/r80mcc.shtml

ARS Spartan Sprint
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 May
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Skinny; Tubby
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power
Work stations: Once per band
Submit logs by: 10 May 2012

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E-mail logs to: spartansprint@yahoo.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://adventure-radio.org/wiki/index.php?title=Spartan_Sprint_Rules

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 -20:00 UTC 9 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 10 May
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, Low or High
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 12 May 2012
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/onair.html

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:30 - 02:00 UTC 11 May
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 13 May 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 May
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 13 May 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

Slobozhansky Sprint Contest
18:00 – 19:59 UTC 11 May (SSB) and 20:00 – 21:59 UTC 11 May (CW)
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80 m
Classes: Single-Op Multi-Band – CW, SSB or Both; Single-Op Single-Band; Multi-Single
Exchange: Serial no and Administrative District (URDA, RDA, province, state)
Work stations: Once per band per 15-minute period (see rules)
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each administrative district once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 2 June 2012
E-mail logs to: ut0lwr@ukr.net
Mail logs to: Nick Panchenko (UX7LQ), PO Box 2373, Kharkiv-1, 61001, Ukraine
Find rules at: http://tdr.at.ua/index/rules2012/0-13

VK/Trans-Tasman 80 m Phone Contest
08:00 - 14:00 UTC 12 May
Mode: Phone
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op; Single Op QRP; Single Op Foundation; Open
Max power: non-QRP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Serial no
Work stations: Once per hour
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 9 June 2012
E-mail logs to: vktasman@robglassey.com
Mail logs to: VK/trans-Tasman Contest, PO Box 21-363, Christchurch 8143, New Zealand
Find rules at: http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/transtasman/

EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party
10:00 - 12:00 UTC 12 May and 18:00 - 20:00 UTC 13 May
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: A: EUCW Member Club QRP; B: EUCW Member Club Low Power; C: Non-members QRP;
D: Non-members Low Power; E: SWL
Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: A/B: RST, QTH, name, club and member no; C/D: RST, QTH, name and "NM"
Work stations: Once per day per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each EUCW club once per day per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 June 2012
E-mail logs to: eucwfp@agcw.de
Mail logs to: Werner Jochem, DK7VW, Wendelsborn 34, D-66606 St.Wendel, Germany
Find rules at: http://www.agcw.org/eucw/eucwp.html

CQ-M International DX Contest

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12:00 UTC 12 May to 11:59 UTC 13 May
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op Single Band CW, SSB or mixed; Single Op All Band CW, SSB or mixed – low or high; Single Op All Band QRP; Multi-Single; SWL; World War II Veteran
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RS(T) and serial no
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each RS-150-S country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 12 June 2012
E-mail logs to: CQM@SRR.RU
Mail logs to: CQ-M Contest Committee, PO Box 25464, Krasnoyarsk 660049, Russia
Find rules at: http://www.srr.ru/CONTEST/cq_m_12_eng.php

VOLTA WW RTTY Contest
12:00 UTC 12 May to 12:00 UTC 13 May
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op; SWL
Exchange: RST, QSO no and CQ Zone
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: See rules
Multipliers: Each country and VK, VE, JA, ZL and W call area (see rules) once per band; Each country on a different continent worked on at least 4 bands once (extra mult)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x total QSOs
Submit logs by: 30 June 2012
E-mail logs to: log2012@contestvolta.it
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.contestvolta.com/46th_VOLTA_en.pdf

Portuguese Navy Day Contest
15:00 UTC 12 May to 15:00 UTC 13 May
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: See rules
Multipliers: Each prefix once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 2 June 2012
E-mail logs to: nra@nra.pt
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.nra.pt/navy--contest-2012-in.html

Nevada Mustang Roundup
17:00 UTC 12 May to 17:00 UTC 13 May
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: Single Op Fixed - High, Low or QRP; Multi-Op Fixed - High, Low or QRP; Single Op Expedition/Rover; Multi-Op Expedition/Rover

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NV: county and RS(T); non-NV: state, province or country and RS(T)

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 3 points per CW/digital QSO

Multipliers: NV Stations: Each state, province, country once; non-NV Stations: Each NV county once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 13 June 2012

E-mail logs to: logs@nvqsoparty.info

Mail logs to: Nevada QSO Party, 2420 Palora Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89121-2157, USA

Find rules at: http://www.nvqsoparty.info/nevada-mustang-round-up.html

FISTS Spring Sprint

17:00 - 21:00 UTC 12 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: QRP; QRO; Club

Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member

Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 11 June 2012

E-mail logs to: wa1lad@cox.net

Mail logs to: Gil Woodside, WA1LAD, 30 Hilltop Ave., West Warwick, RI 02893-2825, USA

Find rules at: http://www.fists.org/sprints.html

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

00:00 – 24:00 UTC 13 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or "NONE"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 20 May 2012

Post log summary at: http://wes.m0trn.com/submission.php

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

WAB LF Phone
10:00 - 14:00 UTC 13 May
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op - Fixed, Mobile or Portable; Multi-Op - Fixed, Mobile or Portable; QRP; SWL - Fixed, Mobile or Portable
Max power: non-QRP: >10 watts; QRP: 10 watts
Exchange: British Isles: RS, serial no and WAB square; Other: RS, serial no and country
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 3 June 2012
E-mail logs to: aebbooks@ntlworld.com
Mail logs to: Tony Beardsley, G3XKT, 14 York Avenue, Sandiacre, Nottingham NG10 5HB, United Kingdom
Find rules at: http://wab.intermip.net/Contest%20Rules.php#OtherRules

NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint
18:00 - 20:00 UTC 14 May
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, country and NAQCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: Each country in Europe; First country in each continent worked other than Europe
Key Type Mult: 2x if straight key, 1.5x if bug, 1x if other
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 20:00 UTC 17 May 2012
E-mail logs to: submitlog@naqcc-eu.org
Upload log at: http://www.naqcc-eu.org/autologger/
Mail logs to: M Ireland, MW3YMY, Pen-y-Gadlas, Ffordd Bryniau, Meliden, Prestatyn, Denbigh-shire LL19 8RD, UK
Find rules at: http://naqcc-eu.org/SprintHelp/SprintRules.pdf

Next Week's Contests

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 16 May
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 17 May
QRP Minimal Art Session, 16:00 - 22:00 UTC 17 May
Aegean RTTY Contest, 12:00 UTC 21 May to 12:00 UTC 22 May
EU PSK DX Contest,   12:00 UTC 19 May to 12:00 UTC 20 May
His Majesty the King of Spain CW Contest, 12:00 UTC 19 May to 12:00 UTC 20 May
Feld Hell Sprint, 16:00 - 18:00 UTC 19 May
Baltic Contest, 21:00 UTC 19 May to 02:00 UTC 20 May
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 21 May

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 7 May 2012.

1660 - Isaack B Fubine of Savoy, in The Hague, patents macaroni (7 May)
1718 - James Puckle, a London lawyer, patents world's first machine gun (15 May)
1752 - Benjamin Franklin first tests the lightning rod (10 May)
1847 – Robert Thompson patents the rubber tyre (8 May)
1879 – George Selden files for the 1st patent for a gasoline-driven automobile (8 May)
1884 – Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) forms (13 May)
1888 - George Eastman patents "Kodak box camera" (7 May)
1896 – First horseless carriage show in London, featured 10 models (9 May)
1899 - Lawn mower patented (9 May)
1900 – British forces occupy Kroonstad (12 May)
1908 – First Mother's Day observed (10 May); Nathan B Stubblefield patent Wireless Radio Broadcasting (12 May); First passenger flight in an airplane (14 May)
1913 - First 4 engine aircraft built and flown, Igor Sikorsky in Russia (13 May)
1908 – First Mother's Day observed (10 May)
1916 - Einstein's Theory of General Relativity presented (11 May)
1928 - General Electric opens first TV-station in Schenectady, NY (11 May)
1940 – Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Britain (7 May)
1979 - Radio Shack releases TRSDOS 2.3 computer (8 May)

RFinder - The World Wide Repeater Directory, now on Android and iPhone/iPad

After many requests from our users, we are pleased to announce the official release of the next platform release of RFinder - The World Wide Repeater Directory (WWRD) for iOS. It is available for immediate download from the Apple App Store.

RFinder already runs on Android and http://web.rfinder.net. The World Wide Repeater Directory is also accessible from RTSystems radio programmers and via CHIRP on Windows, Linux and Macintosh with the same user/password you use on handheld devices.

Our goal is to have the WWRD accessible from most pervasive platforms. To that end, Windows Phone and Symbian versions are in development and slated for release this summer. The web version has been tested and works on Blackberry.

We plan to have a data file download for Garmin and TomTom GPS devices from RFinder/Web sometime in the spring of 2012.

Repeater for Android

Nicolas, M1HOG, says, "The latest version of Repeater for Android and Playbook by ZBM2 Software now includes repeater information for the UK, Germany, Italy, Poland, Norway, Spain and Australia, with more countries soon." Features

- Easily find Amateur Radio Repeaters across the UK, Europe and Australia.
- Complete database of UK Analogue, IRLP, Echolink and D-Star repeaters
- Growing database of German, Italian, Polish, Norwegian, Spanish and Australian repeaters, with more countries soon.
- Use network, GPS or a Locator to find Repeaters
- No network connection required
- Displays your locator and selection distance

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

- Comprehensive selection, sorting and display options
- Displays distance, heading and full repeater details
- Supports App2SD
- Fast and flexible, designed to help you use the repeater network

Repeater will remain free. There will never be any charge for people to use it. Finding Repeater - zbm2.com/repeater - Goes straight to Repeater on Google Play

Feedback - If you have any enhancements you would like to see in Repeater, countries you can help add, or any other suggestions for ham related apps please let me know. Contacts - Web www.zbm2.com, E-mail nick@zbm2.com

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?